

ARKANSAS BROILER HATCHERY



ARKANSAS
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

Released: March 12, 2003

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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ARKANSAS CHICK PLACEMENTS DOWN FRACTIONALLY FROM LAST YEAR

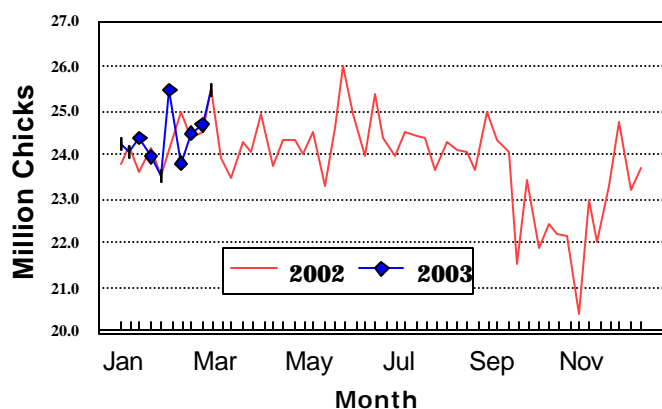
Broiler-type chicks placed for meat production in Arkansas was 25.5 million during the week ending March 8, 2003. Placements were down fractionally from the comparable week in 2002, but up 3 percent from the previous week, and included 3.2 million chicks shipped in from other states. Cumulative placements from December 29, 2002 through March 8, 2003 were 244.2 million, up 1 percent from the same period a year earlier.

The broiler-type chicks hatched for the week was 25.0 million, down 2 percent from both the corresponding week a year earlier, and from the previous week. Of the total hatch, 2.5 million chicks were shipped out of the state. Average hatchability for chicks hatched was 82.9 percent.

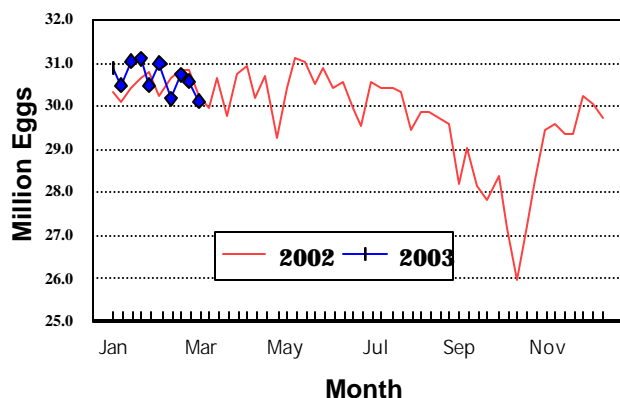
Arkansas hatcheries set 30.1 million broiler-type eggs during the week ending March 8, 2003, down fractionally from the same period last year, and down 2 percent from the previous week.

Week Ending	NET PLACEMENTS			CHICKS HATCHED			EGGS SET		
	2002	2003	% Change	2002	2003	% Change	2002	2003	% Change
	1,000			1,000			1,000		
Feb. 1	23,546	23,524	100	24,583	25,325	103	30,806	30,468	99
Feb. 8	24,115	25,475	106	24,842	25,519	103	30,232	30,994	103
Feb. 15	24,984	23,806	95	25,204	25,709	102	30,627	30,194	99
Feb. 22	24,382	24,509	101	25,438	25,149	99	30,825	30,762	100
Mar. 1	24,553	24,680	101	25,023	25,645	102	30,859	30,603	99
Mar. 8	25,518	25,491	100	25,433	25,042	98	30,238	30,133	100

CHICKS PLACED IN ARKANSAS, 2002-2003



EGGS SET, 2002 - 2003



BROILER EGGS SET AND CHICKS PLACED IN 19 MAJOR STATES BY WEEKS, 2003

STATE	EGGS SET (in Thousands)					CHICKS PLACED (in Thousands)						
	Week Ending				1/	Week Ending						1/
	15-Feb	22-Feb	01-Mar	08-Mar	%	01-Feb	08-Feb	15-Feb	22-Feb	01-Mar	08-Mar	%
Alabama	28,430 *	27,533	27,458	27,920	94	21,231	21,390	20,696	21,200	20,287	21,816	99
ARKANSAS	30,194 *	30,762	30,603	30,133	100	23,524	25,475	23,806	24,509	24,680	25,491	100
Delaware	3,348	3,295	3,489	3,411	96	5,018	4,698	5,539	5,114	5,171 *	4,666	84
Florida	1,605	1,598	1,500	1,493	64	1,754	1,393	1,739	1,491 *	1,752	1,806	83
Georgia	31,084 *	31,321	31,708	31,652	99	25,094	25,425	25,761 *	25,415	25,663 *	24,387	93
Kentucky	6,121	6,188	6,277	6,515	99	5,566	5,315	5,366	5,491	5,503	5,096	97
Maryland	8,694	9,351	9,371 *	10,110	107	6,274	6,265	5,601	5,732	5,692 *	5,233	83
Mississippi	18,852 *	18,447	18,884	19,097	102	15,968	15,479	15,967	15,757 *	15,534 *	15,579	99
N. Carolina	18,294 *	18,754	19,091	18,634	98	14,262	14,439	14,217	14,011	14,332 *	14,199	92
Oklahoma	6,378 *	6,632	6,373	6,465	106	5,624	4,259	4,415 *	4,091	4,840	3,634	81
Pennsylvania	3,434	3,136 *	3,425 *	3,403	88	2,523	2,482	2,551	2,523 *	2,442 *	2,505	94
S. Carolina	4,842	4,823	4,857	4,816	100	4,209	3,607	3,534	3,708	3,134 *	4,812	123
Texas	14,780 *	14,801 *	14,810 *	14,750	96	12,276	11,902 *	12,337 *	11,869 *	11,657 *	11,952	98
Virginia	6,491	6,562	6,720	6,711	101	5,287	5,617	5,612	5,286	5,847	5,854	118
CAL,MO,IN,WV	18,676 *	20,275 *	20,606 *	20,480	95	17,810 *	17,141 *	18,703 *	18,209 *	16,980 *	16,708	87
Total 2003	201,223 *	203,478 *	205,172 *	205,590		166,420 *	164,887 *	165,844 *	164,406 *	163,514 *	163,738	
Total 2002	210,479	211,110	210,211	209,711		164,318	165,373	167,095	170,461	169,215	171,686	
% Prev. Year	96	96	98	98		101	100	99	96	97	95	
Approximate Marketing Date 2003.....						22-Mar	29-Mar	05-Apr	12-Apr	19-Apr	26-Apr	

* Revised . 1/ Current week as percent of the same week last year.

EGGS SET IN 19 SELECTED STATES DOWN 2 PERCENT

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-state weekly program set 206 million eggs during the week ending March 8, 2003. This was down 2 percent from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 83 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

BROILER CHICKS PLACED DOWN 5 PERCENT

Broiler growers in the 19-state weekly program placed 164 million chicks for meat production during the week ending March 8, 2003. Placements were down 5 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from December 29, 2002 through March 8, 2003 were 1.65 billion, down 2 percent from the same period a year earlier.